Corporation of India proposes to replace some vessels in its fleet which have completed their economic life.

(b) to (d) As on 26-4-2003 SCI owns a fleet of 87 vessels and one ship is on lease with SCI. As per Government of India guidelines on the age norms for Indian flag vessels, the 10 vessels of SCI have crossed their prescribed age limit. SCI has plans to replace all such vessels in near future.

In its bid to replace the ageing tankers, SCI has already inducted two new building Afiramax size crude oil tankers into its fleet this year (one each in the month of March and April, 2003). SCI also has four vessels currently on order which are expected to be inducted in its fleet over the span of next 13 months.

SCI has the following vessels on order as on 26-4-2003 :

Vessel	Nos.	Shipyard	Dwt/ Vessel	Delivery Expected	US$ M/Vessel Cost of the vessels to be acquired
Aframax Tanker	2	Hyundi Heavy Industries, South Korea	110,000	May 2003	35.76 August 2003
LRU Tankers	2	Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engg. Co., South Korea	146,860	February 2004	48.7 May 2004

In addition to the above, SCI is also planning to acquire one Aframax size crude oil carrier and 2 Very Large Crude Carriers.

Assistance to guild of service of North India

4599. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of Guild of Service of North India working under the auspices of National Commission for Women, which is actively engaged in the rehabilitation of unfortunate widows languishing in Mathura-Vrindavan;

(b) whether any financial and other assistance has been given this NGOs; and

(c) if not, whether in future assistance is likely to be provided for such NGOs all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ADN EMPOWERMENT (DR. S ANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Guild of Service, New Delhi has been in receipt of financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under Empowerment under the scheme, 'General Grant in Aid Programme for financial assistance in the field of Social Defence', for rehabilitation of widows in Vrindavan. During the last three years, it has been released grant in aid as under:

Year	Grant released (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries
2000-2001	8.30	90
2001-2002	15.60	88
2002-2003	12.69	109

Besides, in 2002-03, the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development, has provided financial assistance to Guild of Service for a project in Lunawada, Gujarat, for 50 riot affected women and 120 children. It has also been provided financial assistance for a project to rehabilitate 100 widows (terrorist violence affected) in Kupwara, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir under their scheme, 'Swadhar'.

Policy for education of special children

4600. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy for the education of 'Special Children' *i.e.* children suffering from Cerebral Palsy, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the achievements of the last three years of National Trust for Welfare of Persons suffering from Cerebral Palsy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Policy framework for education of disabled children has been laid down in the "Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995" which *inter-alia* casts obligation on appropriate Governments to provide for the following:

- Every child with disability shall have the right to free education till the age of 18 years in regular or special schools.
- Transportation, removal of architectural barriers and restructuring of curriculum and modifications in the examination system shall be ensured for the benefit of children with disabilities.